

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 25 public bills, H.R. 1835–1859; 1 private bill, H.R. 1860; and 3 resolutions, H.J. Res. 80–81 and H. Con. Res. 95, were introduced.

Pages H3658–60

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:

Filed on June 9, H.R. 1277, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 and fiscal year 1999 for the civilian research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities of the Department of Energy, amended (H. Rept. 105–67 Part II);

H.R. 378, a private bill (H. Rept. 105–125);

H. Res. 163, providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 54, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States (H. Rept. 105–126); and

H. Res. 164, providing for consideration of H.R. 437, to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program Act (H. Rept. 105–127).

Page H3658

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated Representative Young of Florida to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H3579

Recess: The House recessed at 10:58 p.m. and reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

Page H3583

Suspensions: The House voted to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

AuSable Hydroelectric Project: H.R. 848, to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of the AuSable Hydroelectric Project in New York;

Pages H3585–86

Bear Creek Hydroelectric Project: H.R. 1184, amended, to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for the construction of the Bear Creek hydroelectric project in the State of Washington;

Pages H3586–87

Washington State Hydroelectric Project: H.R. 1217, to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for the construction of a hydroelectric project located in the State of Washington; and

Pages H3587–88

Reunification of the City of Jerusalem: H. Con. Res. 60, relating to the 30th anniversary of the reunification of the city of Jerusalem (agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 406 yeas to 17 nays with 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 176).

Pages H3588–91, H3632–33

Foreign Relations Authorization Act: The House resumed consideration of amendments to H.R. 1757, to consolidate international affairs agencies and to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1998 and 1999. The House considered amendments to the bill on Wednesday, June 4 and Thursday, June 5.

Pages H3591–H3632

Agreed To:

The Gilman amendment that removes the prohibition against foreign assistance for narcotics related purposes to countries that have been decertified for funding;

Pages H3591–93

The Ney amendment that prohibits assistance to any government that assists the Government of Libya in violating sanctions imposed by the United Nations and provides an exception for national security interests of the United States (agreed to by a recorded vote of 426 yeas with none voting “no”, Roll No. 174);

Pages H3593–94, H3613–14

The Capps amendment that provides 30 scholarships to Tibetan students who are outside of Tibet and 15 scholarships to Burmese students who are outside of Burma;

Page H3594

The Diaz-Balart amendment to the Miller of California amendment that additionally specifies that at such time as the government of Cuba has freed all political prisoners, legalized all political activity, and agreed to hold free and fair elections then it is the sense of Congress that the United States should allow the import of Cuban cigars;

Pages H3595–98

The Miller of California amendment, as amended by the Diaz-Balart amendment, that expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should allow the import of Cuban cigars at such time as the government of Cuba has freed all political prisoners, legalized all political activity, and agreed to hold free and fair elections (agreed to by a recorded vote of 375 yeas to 49 noes Roll No. 175);

Pages H3594–95, H3614–15

The Scarborough amendment debated on June 4, as modified, that applies to Sudan the provisions of the Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act that restricts financial transactions until the President certifies that Sudan is no longer sponsoring or supporting terrorism and provides that this restriction shall not apply to humanitarian assistance (agreed to by a recorded vote of 415 yeas to 9 noes, Roll No. 171);

Pages H3598, H3599–H3600

The Engel amendment, debated on June 4, that expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should consider applying to Syria sanctions which are currently enforced against Iran and Libya

(agreed to by a recorded vote of 410 ayes to 15 noes, Roll No. 172);

Pages H3600-01

The Nethercutt amendment, debated on June 5, that expresses the sense of Congress that Al-Faran, a militant organization that seeks to merge Kashmir with Pakistan should release immediately Donald Hutchings of the State of Washington and 3 Western Europeans from captivity and cease and desist from all acts of hostage-taking and other violent acts within the state of Jammu and Kashmir (agreed to by a recorded vote of 425 ayes with 1 voting "present" and none voting "no", Roll No. 173);

Pages H3601-02

The Paxon amendment that condemns the Palestinian Authority policy and practice of imposing the death penalty on anyone who sells land to a Jew;

Pages H3602-07

The Payne amendment that lifts the prohibition of assistance to the Democratic Republic of Congo formerly Zaire;

Pages H3607-08

The Bereuter amendment to the Kennedy of Rhode Island amendment that adds findings and expresses the sense of Congress relating to attacks carried out by the East Timorese resistance forces and condemns these acts as they discredit the East Timorese cause and could result in violent reprisals;

Pages H3609-13

The Kennedy of Rhode Island amendment as amended by the Bereuter amendment that expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should not provide military assistance to Indonesia unless it accredits independent election-monitoring organizations; insures that police or military do not confiscate materials from domestic or international non-governmental organizations; investigates the attack on the headquarters of the Democratic Party of Indonesia; establishes a dialogue to resolve the conflict in East Timor; releases political prisoners; and expresses the sense of Congress relating to attacks carried out by the East Timorese resistance forces and condemns these acts as they discredit the East Timorese cause and could result in violent reprisals;

Pages H3608-13

The Engel amendment that establishes the "MacBride Principles of Economic Justice Act of 1997" for all contributions made by the United States to Northern Ireland;

Pages H3615-17

The Slaughter amendment that expresses the sense of Congress that adequate assistance be provided to Lithuania and Latvia;

Pages H3617-18

The McKinney amendment that establishes the "Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers Act of 1997"; prohibits military assistance and arms transfers to foreign governments unless the government promotes democracy; respects human rights; is not engaged in certain acts of armed aggression; and par-

ticipates in the U.N. and provides exemptions for national security interests of the United States;

Pages H3618-26

The Hall of Ohio amendment that provides findings concerning the conflict in east Timor and affirms the support of Congress for a just and peaceful solution to it;

Pages H3627-28

The Sanders amendment that expresses the sense of Congress regarding the imprisonment of Ngawang Choephel in China and that Ngawang Choephel and other prisoners of conscience in Tibet, as well as in China, should be released immediately and unconditionally; and

Pages H3628-30

The Fox of Pennsylvania amendment that expresses the sense of Congress regarding the designation of Romania as eligible for assistance under the NATO Participation Act of 1994.

Pages H3630-32

Rejected:

The Stearns amendment, debated on June 4, that sought to express the sense of Congress that the President and Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations should encourage the United Nations to commission a study concerning a revolving headquarters for the U.N. and establish the United Nations as a part-time body (rejected by a recorded vote of 108 ayes to 315 noes, Roll No. 170);

Pages H3598-99

Vote Postponed:

The Rohrabacher amendment that seeks to restrict funding to the Russian Federation if the federation transfers an SS-N-22 missile system to the People's Republic of China was debated and the recorded vote was postponed.

Pages H3626-27

On Wednesday, June 4, the House agreed to H. Res. 159, the rule that is providing for consideration of H.R. 1757.

Page H3291

Order of Business—Foreign Relations Authorization Act: It was made in order that during further consideration of H.R. 1757, in the Committee of the Whole, that no further amendment shall be in order except 1) amendments en bloc offered by the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations pursuant to the order of the House of June 5, 1997; and 2) an amendment offered by Representative Sanford regarding authorization levels which shall be debatable under the five-minute rule. The order of the House of June 5 provided that it shall be in order at any time for the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations or a designee, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member of that committee or a designee, to offer amendments en bloc. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this unanimous consent agreement shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment, shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole,

and may amend portions of the bill previously read for amendment. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the Congressional Record immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

Page H3632

Presidential Veto Message—Emergency Supplemental Appropriations: Read a message from the President received by the Clerk on Monday, June 9, wherein he announces his veto of H.R. 1469, making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, including those in Bosnia, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and explains his reasons therefor. The message was ordered printed (H. Doc. 105–96).

Pages H3633–34

Subsequently, agreed to the motion to refer the bill and veto message to the Committee on Appropriations. Earlier, agreed to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 205 nays, Roll No. 177.

Pages H3634–37

Presidential Message—Cloning Prohibition: Read a message from the President received by the Clerk on Monday, June 9, wherein he transmits his proposed legislation titled the “Cloning Prohibition Act of 1997”—referred to the Committee on Commerce and ordered printed (H. Doc. 105–97).

Page H3638

Referral: S. 610, to implement the obligations of the United States under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, known as “the Chemical Weapons Convention” and opened for signature and signed by the United States on January 13, 1993 was referred to the Committees on International Relations and the Judiciary.

Page H3656

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on pages H3661–63.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and six recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H3599, H3599–3600, H3600–01, H3601–02, H3613–14, H3614–15, H3632–33, and H3637. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: Met at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Committee Meetings

LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing on National Institute of Health Priority-Set-

ting. Testimony was heard from Harold Varmus, M.D., Director, NIH, Department of Health and Human Services.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Health and Environment approved for full Committee action the following Budget Reconciliation recommendations: Title IV—Committee on Commerce-Medicare; Title III, Subtitle E—Medicaid; and Title III, Subtitle F—Child Health Assistance Programs.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade, and Consumer Protection approved for full Committee action amended the following Budget Reconciliation recommendation: Title III, Subtitle D—Communications.

OVERSIGHT—FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held an oversight hearing on the Family and Medical Leave Act. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE; BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Subcommittee on Civil Service approved for full Committee action the following: H.R. 1316, to amend chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to the order of precedence to be applied in the payment of life insurance benefits; and Budget Reconciliation recommendations.

OVERSIGHT—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR’S: MISSION, MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Subcommittee on Human Resources continued hearings on Department of Labor’s: Mission, Management, and Performance. Testimony was heard from Alexis M. Herman, Secretary of Labor.

ADMINISTRATION’S—TRADE PRIORITIES

Committee on International Relations: Held a hearing on Trade Priorities of the Administration. Testimony was heard from Charlene Barshefsky, U.S. Trade Representative.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property approved for full Committee action the following bills: H.R. 567, Madrid Protocol Implementation Act; H.R. 1661, amended, to implement the provisions of the Trademark Law